

The Dee Pirkei Avot Project

Dedicated
to those who have tragically been murdered,
for the safe return of those missing or held hostage,
for the refuah of those injured,
the continued strength and bravery of our chyalim in the IDF
and safety of all those in our homeland of Israel.

גְּדוּלָה תוֹרָה יוֹתֵר מִן הַכֹּהֵנָה וּמִן הַמְּלָכוֹת, שֶׁהַמְּלָכוֹת נִקְנִית בְּשָׁלְשִׁים מַעְלוֹת, וְהַכֹּהֵנָה בְּעֶשְׂרִים וָאַרְבַּע, וְהַתּוֹרָה נִקְנִית בְּאַרְבָּעִים וּשְׁמֹנֶה דְּבָרִים. וְאֵלוֹ הֵן, בְּתַלְמוּד, בְּשִׁמְיעַת הָאָזָן, בְּעֵרִיכַת שְׁפָתַיִם, בְּבִינַת הַלֵּב, בְּשִׁכְלוֹת הַלֵּב, בְּאִמָּה, בְּיִרְאָה, בְּעִנּוּהַ, בְּשִׁמְחָה, בְּטַהֲרָה, בְּשִׁמּוּשׁ חֻכְמִים, בְּדַקְדּוּק חֲבָרִים, וּבְפִלְפּוֹל הַתְּלִמִּידִים, בִּישׁוּב, בְּמִקְרָא, בְּמִשְׁנָה, בְּמַעֲוֵט סְחוּרָה, בְּמַעֲוֵט דֶּרֶךְ אֶרֶץ, בְּמַעֲוֵט תַּעֲנוּג, בְּמַעֲוֵט שִׁנָּה, בְּמַעֲוֵט שִׁיחָה, בְּמַעֲוֵט שְׁחֹק, בְּאֶרֶךְ אַפַּיִם, בְּלֵב טוֹב, בְּאַמוּנַת חֻכְמִים, וּבְקִבְלַת הַיְסוּרִין, הַמְּכִיר אֶת מְקוֹמוֹ, וְהַשֹּׁמֵחַ בְּחֻלְקוֹ, וְהַעוֹשֶׂה סִיג לְדַבְּרִיו, וְאִינוֹ מַחְזִיק טוֹבָה לְעַצְמוֹ, אֱהוּב, אוֹהֵב אֶת הַמְּקוֹם, אוֹהֵב אֶת הַבְּרִיּוֹת, אוֹהֵב אֶת הַצְּדָקוֹת, אוֹהֵב אֶת הַמִּשְׁרִים, אוֹהֵב אֶת הַתּוֹכְחוֹת, מְתַרְחֵק מִן הַכְּבוֹד, וְלֹא מְגִיס לְבוֹ בְּתַלְמוּדוֹ, וְאִינוֹ שֹׁמֵחַ בְּהוֹרָאָה, נוֹשֵׂא בְּעַל עִם חֲבֵרוֹ, מְכָרִיעוֹ לְכַף זְכוּת, מַעֲמִידוֹ עַל הָאֵמֶת, וּמַעֲמִידוֹ עַל הַשְּׁלוֹם, מְתִישֵׁב לְבוֹ בְּתַלְמוּדוֹ, שׁוֹאֵל וּמְשִׁיב, שׁוֹמֵעַ וּמוֹסִיף, הַלּוֹמֵד עַל מְנַת לְלַמֵּד וְהַלּוֹמֵד עַל מְנַת לַעֲשׂוֹת, הַמְּחַכֵּים אֶת רְבוֹ, וְהַמְּכֹנֵן אֶת שְׁמוֹעָתוֹ, וְהַאֹמֵר דְּבַר בְּשֵׁם אוֹמְרוֹ, הָא לְמַדַּת שְׁכַל הָאוֹמֵר דְּבַר בְּשֵׁם אוֹמְרוֹ מֵבִיא גְּאֻלָּה לְעוֹלָם, שְׁנֵאמַר (אֶסְתֵּר ב) וַתֹּאמֶר אֶסְתֵּר לְמֶלֶךְ בְּשֵׁם מְרַדְּכִי:

Greater is Torah than priesthood and kingship, for kingship is obtained with thirty levels, and priesthood with twenty-four, and Torah is obtained with forty-eight things. And these are them: learning, listening of the ear, preparation of speech, understanding of the heart, intellect of the heart, reverence, awe, humility, happiness, purity, service of sages, care of friends, debate of the students, clarification, scripture, mishnah, minimization of merchandise, minimization of worldly occupation, minimization of pleasure, minimization of sleep, minimization of conversation, minimization of laughter, patience, generosity, trust of the sages, acceptance of afflictions, knowing one's place, gladness in one's portion, erection of a fence to one's words, lack of self-aggrandizement, loveliness, love of God, love of the creatures, love of the righteous, love of the upright, love of rebuke, distancing from honor, lack of arrogance in learning, lack of joy in issuing legal decisions, lifting of a burden with one's friend, judging him with the benefit of the doubt, placing him with the truth, placing him with peace, deliberation in study, questioning and responding, hearing and adding, learning in order to teach and learning in order to act, making one's master wiser, focusing one's teaching, saying [a thing] in the name of the one who said it; for you learned that one who says something in the name of the one who said it brings redemption to the world, as it says (Esther 2:22): "Esther told the king in Mordekhai's name."

Knowing one's place is one of the 48 qualities listed in the above Mishnah for acquiring the Torah. An accurate assessment of one's place and worth brings modesty and humility. Identifying attributes we need to improve on to refine our character is also crucial for our personal growth. However, recognising our abilities, talents and gifts empowers us to contribute to the world around us for the good. We each have a unique purpose and are given the tools and put in a specific place and time to fulfil that purpose, our tikun in this world. Tying this in with the attribute of "one who learns in order to practice" we see how when we truly understand our place in the world it is clear that learning is not for the sake of knowledge alone but for the purpose of action. Torah is our guidance in fulfilling our purpose in this world, to inspire us to better ourselves and those around us.

The knowledge we acquire should shape how we contribute to our community, how we use our talents, and how we navigate our unique circumstances. The more we learn, the more we understand our place and purpose. Knowing your place leads to a deeper understanding of how to act, and acting upon your learning leads to fulfilling your purpose. Torah study is not meant to be an intellectual pursuit detached from life. The ultimate goal of Torah learning is to integrate its wisdom into our daily practices and interactions with the world in the place we have been put.

Discussion Points:

- How does an accurate assessment of one's place bring modesty and humility?
- How does recognising your strengths help you to find your purpose in the world?
- How does increased knowledge of Torah serve as a guide for living a better, more fulfilling life?

Idea by Laura Sykes

לעילוי נשמת:

לאה בת רפאל הכהן וציפורה
מאיה אסתר בת הרב אריה מרדכי ולאה
רינה מרים בת הרב אריה מרדכי ולאה



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לאה בת רפאל הכהן וציפורה

מאיה אסתר בת הרב אריה מרדכי ולאה

רינה מרים בת הרב אריה מרדכי ולאה



Hostages in Gaza:
 Alon ben Idit (Ohel)
 Ariel ben Sylvia (Konio)
 Avinathan ben Ditzza Tirtza (Or)
 Bar Avraham ben Julia (Kuperstein)
 Bipin Joshi
 David ben Sylvia (Konio)
 Edan ben Yael (Alexander)
 Eitan Avraham ben Efrat (Mor)
 Eitan ben Rut Eedit (Horn)
 Elkana ben Ruchama (Bohbot)
 Evyatar ben Galya (David)
 Gali ben Tamar (Berman)
 Guy ben Meirav (Gilboa-Dalal)
 Matan Shachar ben Anat (Angrist)
 Matan ben Einav (Zangauker)
 Maxim ben Tella (Herkin)
 Nimrod ben Vicky (Cohen)
 Omri ben Veronica Esther (Miran)
 Pinta Nattapong
 Rom ben Tamar Noa (Braslavski)
 Sasiwan Pankong
 Segev ben Galit (Kalfon)
 Tamir ben Cherut (Nimrod)
 Yosef Chaim ben Miriam (Ohana)
 Ziv ben Tamar (Berman)

Refuah:
 יונתן צבי בן שרון
 מיחי שמעון בן בתיה
 איתי בן ליז
 מיכאל בן אסתר
 יאיר בן דרורה
 נתנאל בן חיה אסתר
 עמיחי שמעון בן בתיה
 יאיר יונה בן דרורה ציפורה מלכה
 Kinneret D
 Hadar bat Galiya
 ענר שפירא
 Natalie
 בת יהודית and יהודית בת תמר
 נועה בת עדי מרציאנו
 נבו בן מירב
 דביר בן אורית
 Shlomo Yair Chaim Ben Gittle Sara
 רז בן דליה
 Yonatan tzvi Ben Sharon
 Nadav Ephraim Ben Shulamit Leah
 יאיר בן דרורה

L'ilui Nishmat:
 אריאל בן אחיה ועידית אליהו הי"ד
 רועי וייזר
 רועי חיים בן נעמי וישראל
 תומר בן מיכל
 Yishai ben Yitzchak
 Avraham Ben Yaffa
 חנן (חנניה) בן יולנדה
 יונתן צור בן רבקה
 Nathanel Abraham Shalom ben
 Nahoum Maimon
 ישי בן ענבל
 רועי חיים בן ישראל מאיר ונעמי
 אור מלכה
 Ro'ee Ben yaron
 אריה בן דבורה
 Sgt. Roey Chaim Ben Yisrael Meir
 מתן בן מירי וארז
 רועי חיים בן נעמי וימי
 אריאל בן אחיה ועידית
 יוסף מרדכי בן דינה
 אלחנן קלמנזון
 אריאל בן עידית ואחיה
 דביר חיים בן ישראל עמיחי
 יוסף מלאכי בן דינה ודוד
 דביר חיים בן ישראל עמיחי
 יהונתן אהרון שטינברג
 Paul Kessler
 Sharona shumnit harel
 אלחנן אריאל בן יהודה הי"ד
 Elisheva Rose Ida Lubin
 לורן בת חוה
 אוריה בן ריטה
 Daniel Shimon ben Doron
 Zecharia Pesach ben Aharon Baruch
 ilan Cohen

These lists are not comprehensive.

We pray for the welfare of those released from captivity, for them to recover their physical and mental wellbeing. We learn in memory of all those murdered in Hamas captivity.

May our learning be in the zechut of ALL those in need in Israel.